

# Red Feather Boys Formost in Famous Battle.

(Dr. J. D. Logan in Morning Chronicle)

SOMEWHERE IN FRANCE, April 10, 1917—"The Breed of Scrappers,"—that is the new phrase by which "Borden's Gamecocks" (as the regimental song has it) are now known in France, ever since the momentous morn and day immediately following Easter when the Red Feather lads proved themselves irresistible warriors and added fresh renown to the fighting qualities of the men from the land of the Mayflower and Maple-leaf. This is the circuitous rhetoric I must use, under the very strict regulations of the censorship in France, to say that Nova Scotia's Highlanders performed a splendid service in the recent British offensive on the Western Front, were foremost in the capture of Vimy Ridge and acquired from the participating Canadian and Imperial battalions a new name that, if somewhat colloquial and even slangy, is as significant and worth while as their original regimental legend "Stol na fear fearail."

The name became a vogue when an officer of the R.F.A., walked into the orderly room of the battalion and smilingly but unconventionally said: "I want to have a look at the breed of Nova Scotia scrappers that tore up things magnificently on the line at Vimy yesterday." It was certainly a compliment that, coming, as it did, from an Imperial officer, made our officers and men justly satisfied with the achievement of the Red Feather Battalion in the first day's concerted action on the new British offensive on the Western Front.

But it seemed to be a day of compliments and congratulations for the Nova Scotia lads. Col. B——, commander of the Nova Scotia Battalion, was, I am authoritatively told, formally congratulated by the Brigadier General of the —th Brigade, after the action which put Vimy Ridge in possession of the Canadians, on the bravery and effectiveness of his battalion and assured that the battalion had earned the right to an outstanding place in the —th Brigade.

"You and your men," said the Brigadier-General, "carried themselves like veterans and I am very proud to have had you attached to my Brigade."

On the night immediately succeeding the action, a most extraordinary method of acclaiming the glory and renown

gained by the Nova Scotia Highlanders was a somewhat dramatic (perhaps, theatrical) scene or episode which occurred in the Y. M. C. A., hut at B——. Hon. Capt. D——n who has charge of the services in the hut, which is visited by as many Imperials as Canadian soldiers, conducts what is called "the Bill and Tom Meeting," that is a meeting at which military rank and office is ignored, but every soldier is just a human being, and Private Bill addresses his Sergeant or Sergeant-Major as Tom. Hon. Capt. D——n comes from Winnipeg and is a breezy-spoken, sincere, efficient good fellow. Before beginning the Bill and Tom services, he made this preface: "I'm from the far West, and I had heard a great deal about the —th Battalion before today, but after what I have heard this afternoon, about this achievement at Vimy Ridge I think we all should take off our hats to the Red Feather boys." Suiting action to his words, Capt. D——n raised his hat, and thereupon the throng of Imperial soldiers rose en masse and took off their flat-tops to honor the valiant deeds of the men from the land where the Maple Leaf grows (or maple syrup flows, take your choice.)

The capture of Vimy Ridge is proof that the gallant Nova Scotia lads are now more than holding their places. For this, as I now give it, in a sentence or two, is the eternal fact. The Red Feather battalion was ordered to the front "to hold M—H—line." Hardly had they reached that line, when an order came, "Send the —th over the parapets to take the enemy's trenches on Vimy Ridge." This order came when another battalion had nobly tried but failed under hellish fire to take that objective. The lads who wear the feather went over, and took the objective—regardless of hazards swiftly and invincibly. Henceforth, let the people of Nova Scotia remember with pride that achievement of their sons, and mark down Easter Monday, April 9th, 1917, as a red letter day on Nova Scotia's military calendar. I write only of what I have seen and what I have heard from indubitable authority, and what I have written to the N.S. News. Nova Scotia's sons of battle have helped to bring back the heroic age.

SERGEANT J. D. LOGAN.

## TREMENDOUS FIGHTING FOR THE VILLAGE OF FRESNOY.

Hindenburg Has Thrown a Big Mass of Reserves into the Battle, and is Contesting Every Inch of the Way.

LONDON, May 10—Fresnoy is still the scene of a tremendous tug-of-war today between British and German massed forces. Fighting doggedly, the British doggedly, the British managed to retrieve part of their loss in the Germans recapture of the village Saturday, but today a big mass of reserves disposed there by Hindenburg, were contesting every inch of the way.

The Germans evidently regard Fresnoy as a key to Douai itself, one of main German depot points behind the Hindenburg line, and propose to stop further British progress there with every resource at their command.

Bellecroux was another storm center, fighting going on through most of the night and early today.

On the French front Nivelle's forces apparently are making progress out of Croonne, despite violent counter attacks.

## BERLIN NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS SHORT OF PAPER MAY SUSPEND PUBLICATION

COPENHAGEN, May 10, via London.—The Berlin newspaper publishers, have informed Chancellor Von Bethmann Hollweg that they are in pressing danger of being forced to suspend publication at the end of this week, or the beginning of next; owing to the paper shortage. They ask the Chancellor to take steps to increase the supply and particularly to furnish fuel to paper factories.

LONDON, May 9—According to official information received in London a number of Turkish agents are at work in Switzerland with the object of assuring the continued existence of Turkey. Provided the Turks are not driven out of Constantinople, it is understood, a willingness is expressed by the Turks to allow complete freedom of the Dardanelles to all comers.

## THIRTY-FIVE DIVISIONS OF THE GERMAN ARMY WITHDRAWN

LONDON, May 9—The Reuter correspondent at British headquarters in France, sends the following: "From north of Fresnoy to the Windmill at Gavrelle, the Germans have prodigal use of their reserves in the last twenty-four hours, in an endeavor to press us back, but their attempts were broken up by our intense artillery fire mostly before they got within bombing distance of our positions."

"Some idea of what this fighting is costing the enemy may be gained from the fact that since April 1 it would appear that over thirty-five German divisions have been withdrawn on this front exhausted. It is understood that the existing strength of the German army on the western front is 157 divisions. In computing their total strength however, it should be borne in mind that about three-quarters of the enemy divisions now consist of only three regiments, or about 9,000 rifles."

A despatch from St. John says: Letters from France received by relatives here tell how Lieut. Alfred Churchill, of Windsor, N. S., gave his life for others. He had been wounded, but when the stretcher bearers arrived to take him to a place of safety he instructed them to look after others more seriously wounded first. When they returned they found that he had been killed by another hursting shell.

## FIRE ON SUBMARINE

NEW YORK, May 9—The Associated Press says: An armed American line steamship, which has arrived here tonight from European ports reported that her gun crew fired six shots at a German submarine off the coast of Ireland on May 2. The undersea boat immediately submerged and it was impossible to determine whether any of the shots took effect.

## NEXT DRIVE BIGGER THAN ARRAS

Major General Maurice Predicts a Great Offensive in the Future

### SUCCESS OF THE ALLIES

British and French Have Taken 50,000 Prisoners and 450 Guns—Conditions Not Favorable for Russian Offensive.

LONDON, May 10—The recent partial success of the Germans at Fresnoy on the Arras front in France, has not upset the British plans of operation, nor has it caused surprise, said Major General Frederick B. Maurice, chief director of military operations at the War Office, in his weekly statement today.

As a matter of fact, the General added, the British staff has been surprised that the Germans have not succeeded before in making gains, in view of the tremendous counter-attacks which they have been hurling against the British front. The chief director continued:

"Bodies of Teutons continually have been sent against the British over open ground without any apparent regard for casualties, and the British have held their line when it might have been expected they would give way, and have inflicted heavy losses on their opponents."

"The Germans have hurled great reserves into the Arras conflict, employing people from Belgium, Poland and other conquered territory to release more Germans for military service. The British have forced the Germans to use up twice as many reserves as were employed in the Somme offensive, which ranks next to the present one in magnitude."

"The Germans claimed that by their so-called strategic retreat they inflicted a great defeat on the British in respect to their plans, and that the Teutons held the situation in their own hands. Let me point again to the fact that the British plans for the Arras offensive were completed in February, before the German retreat began. Despite the German claims, we have continued our offensive according to the plans prepared."

"During the month since the offensive began, we have taken twice the number of prisoners, four times the amount of ground and five times the number of guns taken in the Somme offensive. The British and French between them have captured 50,000 prisoners and 450 guns. If this is the result of a defeat, then we are willing to go on being defeated."

## Next Drive Bigger Than Ever

"We have known going, and we are going to keep on going."

"The Arras offensive is much bigger than the Somme, and our next offensive will be bigger than Arras."

"Regarding the German casualties, it is impossible, of course, to give figures, but there is no disputing the fact that they have been terrible and incomparably larger than ours."

General Maurice was asked whether the Germans appeared to have withdrawn troops from the Eastern Front for use in the West.

He replied there was no indication of this. On being asked whether the Russian crisis was causing any uneasiness in Allied military circles, he said:

"Naturally there must be some uneasiness until the new Government is firmly on its feet. But it must be remembered that even had there been no revolution, the Russians could not have started an offensive before this, because of the condition of the ground, due to the Russian winter."

"As a matter of fact, conditions are not yet favorable for operations in the East."

Potatoes eating is cradle robbing. It is worse than cradle robbing. Every potato on the market ought to be an ancestor, not a food. The potato eyes are the providers for next year, and we have so diminished the supply that unless we cease eating potatoes now we shall not know anything of potatoes next year—Chicago Tribune.

## APPLES LOST IN TRANSIT

(Outlook)

We are indebted to Fruit Inspector Vroom for the list of Nova Scotia apples lost in transit to England:

Steamers	Barrels
Rappahannock	17,440
Tabasco	18,743
Verdun	1,500
Annapolis	20,293
Total	57,976

A Bill has passed the House of Assembly providing for the addition to the Murray Government of two cabinet positions. The amendment of Mr. Douglas that the Bill become law on the day the Legislative council is abolished was defeated on a straight party vote.

# Direct News of the Fighting at Vimy Ridge by an Acadia Boy.

The following is an interesting letter from Private W. S. Frail to his mother, Mrs. George Frail, Scotch Village:

April 20th, '17

Dear Mother—

I neglected writing to you this week, because I was sent to the hospital. I suppose you heard before now that I was wounded. The minister told me he would write and tell you. I am not wounded very bad, just bad enough to get a good rest.

They had the X-Rays on me yesterday; they brought the pictures in today. I could see the bullet quite plain. I was shot in the left hip, the bullet glanced, and lodged in the lower part of the spine. I can feel it quite plainly. I got it from behind, it was in the big advance I was just stepping up to fire, when I got it. I thought it was one of our own bullets at first, but I can see from the picture it was a German bullet. That is what we get by showing mercy to those flat headed dogs; as soon as we would come up to them, they would throw up their hands and cry "mercy comrade" and when we would come up to them that is how they would act. We took an important position.

I am sending you some clippings from an English paper that will give you some idea.

You know what I meant by the merry Easter now. We went to the trenches Saturday night. A few of us was detailed for a ration party, and when we came up to the trenches were shelled by the Germans, it was light-stuff, but Oh my! It was coming handy. We only lost one man, but they plastered us with dirt from the shells. I had two bags of cheese to carry beside my equipments, and in places the mud was to our waists, of course it was in the night.

We would get stuck in the mud by spells so they would have to help us out. I got down once, and when I got on my feet again, I went over the top and took my chances.

I got to where I wanted to go alright I had to go out again to get some bombs, then we had a chance to sleep. They had all of us who were going on the big offensive in a tunnel, an immense affair. The German shells could have no effect on us in there we were expecting to go over the next morning, that was Easter Sunday, but we just stayed in there and rested. Our artillery shelled heavily for a little while each day, so the Germans did not know when we were going over.

We got all ready Sunday night. I am a bayonet man attached to the bombers. I am supposed to do sniping and bayonet work. We got ready, all formed up in the jumping off trenches at three in the morning, it was raining and nasty, but we didn't think of that we made ready, kicked holes in the side of the trench for our toes, so we could get out easily. At the first dawn of day our machine guns started I could not describe what the fire was like. It sounded like rain dropping on a tin pan. No one could imagine what it is like without seeing it.

We climbed out of the trenches in no man's land, there our artillery sounded as one gun. There never was such a barrage before, I am safe in saying the "Somme" wasn't to be compared with it. My it was a pretty sight. The whole Heavens were a light blaze, the Germans were sending all sorts of funny signs with different kinds of star shells, you can imagine something of what it looked like before good daylight.

It was not long before we were in the German lines and as we advanced, our barrage jumped further ahead; "When we got to the German trenches they

hardly looked like trenches, they were so battered to pieces.

Nothing could live under our artillery fire, the ground was all torn to pieces. There wasn't a blade of grass, everything was as though it had been ploughed. We had woods to pass through, and that was so blown to pieces there was nothing left of it. I was in the first line so I had not much to do with taking prisoners.

The Germans made very little resistance, running to their dugouts as we advanced, or throwing up their hands and crying for mercy. They will run with a bomb in their hands, and when they see they can't throw it, they will throw up their hands and ask for mercy. Going over the top is a very different thing from what you would think it was; there are no orders given, every man knows his place, and what he is to do. There is no excitement, all the boys were smiling and a good many were smoking cigarettes that is always the first thing to enter a fellow's head under heavy fire.

I saw almost all the scrap. I was wounded almost at the last minute. Willie (MacGinis) was all right when I was wounded, I haven't heard from him since. He didn't see me but I saw him going on when I was wounded I could see over the great open Country ahead, where the Germans would have to retire. The corporal and myself just got into a shell hole waiting for the barrage to lift. He told me there was some Germans ahead, I jumped up to take a shot when I got it. I thought I was struck with a rock, and would be able to go on in a minute.

The stretcher bearer was there and dressed my wound, and told me I was struck with a bullet and to lie still, I tried several times to get out of that but I couldn't. I left everything right there. I stood on my right foot for a while, and leaned against the side of the shell hole watching for the stretcher bearers, but where there are so many gathered up, they are slow coming.

A young lieutenant saw me, and made me get on his back, and he carried me to a trench where there was not so many shells dropping I stayed there a little while, then I thought I would go down in a German dugout where it was warmer, I managed to get there. I didn't go down, because, I thought perhaps the stretcher bearer wouldn't find me so I held on to the side of the trench and kept going.

I got a wounded German to take me there was a couple of other fellows came along who was wounded in the arms or head they could walk better than me, but after I walked awhile, I got along better the other fellows had an argument with me about the way back to our trenches, they went their way, and I went mine, but I kept Fritz, he held on to me and helped me along, they took him from me after I got to our lines.

I got away that night and was sent to a hospital, the next morning I was sent to Bologne from there they sent me to England, so I am all right now, it will be a month or more before I will be able to go back. I suppose I will be getting anxious to go back long before I am able to go. I will get a ten days' pass to go anywhere in the British Isles before I go back. I think I will go to London.

It is very hard to write lying in bed, you will have to excuse bad writing, as you have had to do many times before while I was at Acadia.

Do not worry about me because I am all right I have a pair of white sheets to lie between and four meals each day. Good night, WALLACE

## LIEUTENANT W. G. ROSS IS STILL ALIVE

HALIFAX, May 10—On April 20th news was received that Lieutenant W. G. Ross and Major A. M. Ross, of Tatamagouche, had been killed in action at Vimy Ridge. Yesterday the news came that Lieutenant Ross was still alive. A letter written by himself on the 22nd of April said he was still in England but all packed up and ready to leave for the front. He had received news of the death of his brother Major Ross.

The wife of Major Ross arrived in Halifax from England on April 20 and had not learned of her husband being killed until she read the report of the two brothers having fallen.

## NO U. S. FOODSTUFFS WILL REACH THE GERMANS

LONDON, May 10—Lord Robert Cecil, Minister of Blockade, stated in the House of Commons today that the British Government had no reason to believe any American foodstuffs or feeding stuff would be passed by neutral countries into Germany. The question of the conditions under which the import of American supplies by neutrals would be permitted in the future, he added, no doubt would receive the closest attention by the United States Government.

WINNIPEG, May 10—The Free Press has a special despatch from Calgary, stating that the Provincial elections will be held in Alberta, June 14th and 15th.

# DOMINION ATLA RAILWAY

Kentville Time Table 1917. (Service daily)

Express for Halifax  
Express from Yarmouth  
Express for Halifax  
Accom for Middle  
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daily except Sat

## Midland

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and at Windsor  
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## Canadian

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## BOSTON

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R. U. PARK  
GEORGE E.

## Yarmouth

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